

CLAIMS:

1. A sterilizer comprising:

a housing forming an enclosure:

a receptacle in said enclosure;

means for closing said enclosure;

means for holding utensils within said receptacle adjacent said closing means such that said utensils are exposed within said enclosure; and

a source of UV-C radiation located within said enclosure;

wherein UV-C radiation from said source of UV-C radiation is directed onto items located in said enclosure.
2. The sterilizer of claim 1 wherein said means for holding utensils is a knife holder.
3. The sterilizer of claim 1 wherein said receptacle is a basket which has openings of uniform size.
4. The sterilizer of claim 1 wherein said receptacle is of transparent plastic.

5. The sterilizer of claim 1 wherein said means for holding utensils is a receptacle for a cutting board.

6. The sterilizer of claim 1 where the bottom of said housing is angled with respect to said closing means.

7. The sterilizer of claim 1 further comprising means for lifting and lowering utensils located in said receptacle.

8. The sterilizer of claim 1 wherein said UV-C light source emits radiation having a bandwidth between 200nm and 290nm.

9. The sterilizer of claim 1 wherein said UV-C light source emits radiation having a bandwidth between 250nm and 260nm.

10. The sterilizer of claim 1 further comprising a power switch operated by a timer.

11. The sterilizer of claim 1 wherein items placed inside said enclosure are exposed to UV-C radiation and thereby sterilized.

12. A sterilizer comprising:

An enclosure which can be opened and closed on at least one side;

a receptacle arranged inside said enclosure wherein said receptacle does not interfere with the transmission of the UV-C radiation;

a source of UV-C radiation located within said enclosure;

a power source;

a power switch electrically connected to said source of UV-C radiation and to said power source;

and means for lifting and lowering items placed in said receptacle inside said enclosure, wherein;

when said sterilizer is connected to said power source and said power switch is activated, UV-C radiation from said source of UV-C radiation is uniformly directed onto items located in said receptacle.

13. The sterilizer of claim 12 wherein exposure time of said items to said UV-C radiation is fifteen minutes.